



bserver

Issue 9
Volume 71
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News

Social Work L.E.A.D.
Lobby Day

Voice Over Internet
Protocol: Manuscript-in-
the-Works by Professor
Brian Capouch

Features

Success at Casino
Night

SJC's IM Dodgeball

Top Gun Movie
Review

Sports

Puma Indoor Track
Update

NBL Spring Training

Puma Profile: Aubrey
Roe

Et Cetera

Poetry

Funnies

Horoscopes



Left: Award winners Vondra and Grgic. Right: The 2005 Mock Trial Team. Photos courtesy of Grgic.

By Katherine Grgic, Publications and Media Relations Intern

This year's Mock Trial Team proves that you don't have to be a Political Science or Pre-Law major to successfully participate in a courtroom competition. With only two future lawyers in their ranks, the team placed ninth at the Rocky Mountain Regional Competition in Ogden, Utah, which took place February 11th and 12th.

"Having been a four-year member of the SJC Mock Trial Team and its captain for the past two years, I feel that I can and should say that this year's team was one of the best and most competitive teams I have been a member of," said senior Jacob Lofgren. "Everyone did well."

Sponsored by the American Mock Trial Association, the Mock Trial program provides a fictitious case based in the state of "Midlands" each year and requires colleges and universities to plan cases for

both plaintiff and defense. After preparing for the better part of a year, which includes studying "Midlands State Law Code," teams travel to compete in a number of regional competitions held across the country, where they present both sides of the case twice and are scored on the quality of the lawyers' questions and objections, the believability of witnesses, and overall strategy and presentation. This year's case was a civil suit between a star athlete and a mental hospital, which was allegedly liable for injuries the athlete sustained from a recently discharged patient diagnosed with a rage disorder.

Before the team left for Utah, Lofgren had several concerns, one of the biggest being the amount of time members were able to spend preparing for the case. "The team wasn't even finalized

until just before Christmas break, and five of the members had never participated before," he explained. He also worried about their ability to earn the amount of points needed to place regionally. "Civil cases tend to be less exciting than criminal cases, but they are more challenging because it is more difficult to have strong character traits within the witnesses."

By the competition's end, Lofgren's worries were laid to rest as the team earned ninth place out of 18 teams and two of their witnesses placed in the Top Ten Outstanding Witnesses category: junior English major Katherine Grgic placed second, and sophomore Biology major Tiffany Vondra tied for eighth.

Perhaps their most impressive achievement was earning third place in the esteemed Spirit of AMTA Competition, an award

recognizing teams with the best sense of civility and fair play. "I'm proud of how we competed and finished. Our ability to capture third place in the Spirit of AMTA indicates that our competitive drive never overshadowed our desire to be kind and pleasant people outside of the courtroom," Lofgren said. "We performed well and held our own against difficult teams, three of which made it to nationals."

Mock Trial Coach David DeLauro '00, Computer Systems Analyst at SJC, shared Lofgren's sentiments. "These Pumas deserve congratulations for all the hard work they have put into memorizing parts, learning the code of law, and having the confidence learned here at SJC to get up in front of groups of people and debate with vigor and articulation," he said.

Second Semester Survival Guide: Searching for Life After College

By Becky Scherer, Editor in Chief, and Jenna Mullins, Staff Writer

It's definitely "that" time of the year. Spring Break is right around the corner, final exams don't seem so far away anymore, and students are getting anxious with the upcoming semester end. Freshmen are more than ready for a three-month summer break; sophomores are searching for the perfect summer internship; juniors are pouring over graduate school applications and GRE study guides; seniors are stressing over resume builders and career searches.

Want to preserve your sanity? Need a little help with your post-scholastic endeavors? Want some confirmation that you're on the right track? Here are some pointers to ensure success in the post-college application process.

Tips for applying for an internship:

Be sure that you have the time and stamina to give to your job. Many internships are unpaid and so it becomes easier to lose interest and motivation. Try talking to someone within the company you can look up to; ask him or her to be your mentor throughout your experience.

Ask for letters of recommendation as soon as possible. Although it may seem like a letter of recommendation isn't very much to ask of a professor or employer, it can still take a significant amount of time to complete one. It's common courtesy to give at least a month's notice before recommendation deadlines.

Ask for resume help. At this point in the game, you probably have enough information and experience to fill out a resume, but don't just

include everything you've ever done. Sign up for resume help in the Career Center or ask someone who reads resumes professionally to look over yours. Organization and presentation of your information can make all the difference.

Tips for applying to graduate school:

Grad school is not for everyone. Be positive that you can dedicate your time and interest to the program to which you wish to apply. Schools are competitive—be certain that a Masters degree will be beneficial to you in your future career.

Take the GRE (Graduate Record Exam) test early enough in the semester so that you can retake it if need be. Tests are offered in the spring and fall seasons; many graduate schools will not accept

scores from the December test, so make sure to sign up for an earlier spot. Study guides and reproduced past tests are available in many bookstores.

Apply early. Deadline dates should be observed but not used as last resorts. The earlier you get your application sent in, the earlier it will be looked over—and the fewer applications it will be up against. Especially apply early if you are interested in a fellowship opportunity, as there are restricted numbers of these to be distributed.

Tips for applying for a job:

Follow the rules. If a company asks you to mail in your resume, don't attach it in an e-mail; if you're asked to apply in person, don't call human resources. How to follow directions is one of the first things

children are taught in school, yet it is one of the most common errors made by careless adults every day.

Notify your references that they may be receiving a call. Even if you've already let everyone on your list know that they are a current reference on your resume, it's nice to give a reminder. That way, professors and employers can ready themselves for the call and prepare something nice to say about you.

Be assertive but not pushy. Employers like a go-getter attitude, but remaining pleasant and polite is still a necessity. Remember your manners but don't sell yourself short.

For more information, make an appointment in the Career Center or visit jobsearch.about.com/od/jobapplications/a/jobapplication.htm

“CyberWrap,” “Puma Wrap” -- Let’s Call the Whole Thing Off

By Becky Scherer, *Editor in Chief*

Too much of a good thing ceases to be a good thing.

It’s a classic scenario: you find a band, song, movie, television show, or new hangout to which you take an instant liking, and you immerse yourself in the novelty of your new-found pastime or preference only to watch yourself grow sick and tired of it. You become burnt out on the thing that you once loved so much and the relationship is never quite the same.

Sadly, this burn-out effect has also been known to occur with food—and at a place with rotating menus and the same “alternatives” day in and day out, disaster can strike if one loses his or her taste for a specific item in the cafeteria.

Four years ago, Mr. Steve Santo introduced us to the glory of CyberWraps. An instantaneous hit and favorite to most of the SJC community, the chicken-et-cetera-stuffed wraps were a treat and definitely something to which we looked forward.

When Steve left us, it seemed that CyberWraps left right along with him. Devastated, we as a community drew support from one another and networked our pain and feelings of desertion. We soon got over our loss, but we

never truly forgot the joy that CyberWrap Day brought into our lives. Nothing could replace the ecstasy of the huge flour tortilla piled high with condiments of our choice, the plethora of crunchy popcorn chicken, and the magical art that was the fold of the concoction — the quick half-slice and the friendly smile as our still-warm plates were handed back to us, with a little slice of heaven patiently awaiting our prompt consumption.

Mere months after Steve’s departure, it suddenly seemed as if all our wildest prayers, hopes, and wishes were to be answered—on the menu for that week was something called “Space Wraps.” Could it be? “Space Wraps,” the little-known and very distant cousin of our beloved CyberWraps was just what the students needed to break the depression that plagued the air in the now Chili-Pepper-Light-less cafeteria. Students ran to the cafeteria wearing their Sunday bests to ring in the triumphant return of the long-lost legend of SJC.

Alas, after all was said and done, “Space Wraps” failed to live up to their predecessor. Depression infected the campus once again as we were positive

we’d never see our precious wrapped medley ever again.

To cut a long and sad story short, The Space Wrap Fiasco was not the last time that our appetites were toyed with. Our extreme devotion to the CyberWrap fueled such temptations as the “SJC Wrap” and “Puma Wrap,” neither, of course, meeting our high standards, but nonetheless the latter becoming a staple of our weekly menu.

Back in the days of CyberWraps, Steve knew better than to make them a permanent component of the menu. Apparently, he knew all about the burn-out effect. The key element of the CyberWrap success, then, appears to be a ration. Keeping the CyberWrap and the glory it entailed a sacred commodity was the secret of its victory. Instead of making them a weekly item on the rotating cafeteria menu, Steve saved them and sporadically sprinkled them on the menu every few weeks, allowing them to always remain the magnificent surprise as which they first began.

In a world where self-serve is something of the past and personal belongings cease to exist past the double doors, all we’re

asking for is something to love — something to look forward to, something to motivate us to get up off the couch, turn off the “Full House” reruns, layer on every article of warm clothing we own, and brave the biting cold on the expedition to the Halleck Center. Instead, remnants of a favorite meal are continuously pushed in front of our faces, tempting us with the memory of how it used to be. The components of said favorite meal continue to dwindle with every serving and the quality with which it is prepared has found itself on a downward spiral.

We’ve all heard the saying “Absence makes the heart grow fonder.” Perhaps the menu-makers should try enlisting such a maxim when planning the carte du jour.

To share an opinion about the cafeteria or menu selection, contact the Food Committee via Janna Oberg at joberg@saintjoe.edu.

Understanding SJC: It’s Definitely a Puma Thing

By Becky Scherer, *Editor in Chief*

Recently I read an email from a friend of mine who attends a very large state university. He is in the presence of nearly 30,000 people each day, and sometimes finds himself lost in the sea of faces. He often tells me about it, and I ask him how he can stand the unfamiliarity and feeling of complete isolation. He likes it, he says. I tell him about my school; he scoffs at the class sizes, snorts at the high tuition, and laughs at the handful of professors. He doesn’t understand, I say, The Saint Joe Experience. It truly is a place all its own, unlike any other anywhere in the world. He rolls his eyes, says “whatever.”

In his email, he wrote that he had received the best email ever and wanted me to read it. Then he included the email text verbatim. Summarily, it was an invitation from one of his professors for the entire class to attend a barbeque at the professor’s house. “Bring a guest, bring some beer, tell me what you’d like to eat.” I blinked when I came to the end. I reread it once, twice. I blinked again. I didn’t understand what he wanted me to gain by reading his professor’s email. There was no explanatory postscript, no footnote to guide my thinking along the proper path. I sat

back in my chair and reflected upon why this email was of the utmost importance to my friend. I had received many just like it in the past, and expected a few more in the very near future. What was the big deal? Barbeques at the profs’ houses happened all the time here. Then I realized it: they happened all the time here. Here, at SJC.

In a place where one has to take a forty-minute bus ride to get to class, is known merely by one’s school ID number, and has to climb eight flights of stairs to reach the library, barbeques at the profs’ houses *don’t* happen all the time. The students walk in, sit down, and have no interaction whatsoever from there on out. No, “Jill, how is your mother feeling?” or “You played a great game last night, Roger,” or “Let me tell you what my wife said yesterday.” There is no bond, no connection between professor and pupil. Regularly, two out of five days a week I eat lunch with at least one of my professors. When my parents call from home and ask how I’m doing, I end up relating anecdotes told by the professors who gave Core lecture that week, Thursday night dinner plans with the English department faculty, and health updates concerning the remission of a professor’s wife’s second cousin’s cancer.

My professors are like family to me, family that is concerned with my well-being and immediately available.

Going through the stages of my epiphany, I can only hope that other students recognize the precious commodity we have here at our fingertips. We have one-on-one relationships, guidance providers, and counselors. And, even better, for every time I’ve gone to a professor seeking advice or an honest opinion, a professor has come to me searching for the same. It’s no longer a novelty to call our teachers by their first names—it’s simply a way of life. We know their ins and outs, their catch phrases, and the color of their eyes. We can imitate their tones of voices, speech patterns, stances, and walking behaviors. We go to the Pub for drinks and discuss our majors, other majors, books, bad habits, ideal living situations, and everything in between. They hang cartoons drawn by their children on their office doors; we know the names, ages, and favorite foods of those children. If they tell a bad joke, we aren’t afraid to tease them as if they were our siblings.

The email text from my friend’s professor was signed “Dr. Martin Schwarz, Professor of Sports Marketing.” The last email I received that day was from Dr.

Kerlin; just a short note telling me how nice the latest issue of *The Observer* had turned out and how proud he was of me. It was signed “Charley.” The one before that was from Professor Kingman: a lunch invitation to celebrate the completion of *Measure*. It was signed “M.”

I’m going to write my friend an email back saying how cool the email from his professor was, and how fun it will be to go to a professor’s house and drink beer. I’ll let him have his enjoyment; I won’t tell him. After all, it’s a Puma thing—he wouldn’t understand.

Won an award? Aced a project? Accepted an internship?

If you have an accomplishment that you’d like to share with your hometown newspaper, fill out a “Student Achievement Form” so the Office of Publications and Media Relations can issue a news release about you! News can also be submitted to Director Bree Ma’Ayteh by e-mailing breaan@saintjoe.edu or calling extension 6177. Forms can also be faxed to her at 866-6354.

To access the form online, visit the “Current Students” OR “News” link on the SJC Web site and click on “Student Achievement Form.”

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PAWS:

...to the members of the Science Olympiad planning committee for hosting a great day on Feb. 19 and positively showing off SJC.



CLAWS:

...to the library staff for not allowing Observer staff members to place our new distribution racks near the study tables on the first floor.

By Becky Scherer, *Editor in Chief*

The students of SJC's Social Work department enrolled in the Social Policy and Macro Practice classes are quickly learning that their future careers entail more than meets the eye. More than merely acting as a pillar of support for an entire community, a career in social work requires a familiarity with governmental procedures, including advocacy and lobbying, a taste of which social work students were given after attending the sixth annual Social Workers' Legislative Education and Advocacy Day on February 16 in Indianapolis.

Over 425 students from nearly every school of social work in Indiana were in attendance at the statehouse to hear the views of politicians and legislators. Students were able to listen to political speeches, visit legislators, and sit in on official discussions of governmental bills such as state funding, women's issues, and gay and lesbian issues. Those in attendance also participated in a march at the state capital while meeting state elected officials.

Associate Professor of Social Work Toni Halgas wanted to give her students a perspective other than her own. "I think the students should be exposed to how complex our legislation is, but also how easy it is to be

involved with it. It's a very intricate process, but advocacy and lobbying are simple ways to get involved," she said. Halgas has been teaching her students how to be involved in advocacy for clients, and believes that after participating in L.E.A.D. they will better understand how to do

our voices as social workers are valued and respected."

Although this is the first L.E.A.D. of which SJC has been a part, Halgas wishes to make participation in the statewide event an annual affair. "It's important for the students to witness the various facets of

politics. They need to understand how the processes work in order to manipulate them," she said. "It's all based on who is in office. Social policy is influenced by the social administration. After attending L.E.A.D., they've at least got a foot in the door."

"It is our duty and responsibility as citizens and especially as social workers to be able to lobby for the causes we strongly believe in."

-- Michael Barry

so not only on the community level but also on the level of state legislation. "I want them to see how they can use their legislature for their clients' benefits," Halgas said.

SJC senior Michael Barry, political science major and member of Halgas's Macro Practice class, found his participation in L.E.A.D. enlightening and educational. "L.E.A.D. helped me better understand the crucial role and impact that social workers can have in the legislative process," he said. "Through the actions of and interactions with Indiana legislators, I was able to see that

Having originated in 2000 as an opportunity for students and educators to become more familiar with advocacy and lobbying in social work, L.E.A.D. strives to generate community and legislative tasks in which the values of social work are accepted and implemented by state government. The event is sponsored by the Indiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and the Indiana Association for Social Work Education.

For information about L.E.A.D., visit <http://iussw.iupui.edu/advocacy/aboutlead.htm>

Professor Introduces Breakthrough Web Telephony in Forthcoming Book

By Becky Scherer, *Publications and Media Relations Intern*

These days, when SJC Professor of Computer Science Brian Capouch isn't giving lectures or grading exams, he's dedicating his time to a manuscript-in-the-works, revolving around one of the most advanced improvements on the Web: Voice Over Internet Protocol, an emerging technology that uses the Internet to deliver telephone calls between machines. Slated for publication by Addison Wesley, the book, tentatively titled *Understanding Asterisk: Open Source, Do-It-Yourself Telephony*, is scheduled for a November 2005 release.

Capouch first became involved with the subject when he took a sabbatical during the 2001-2002 academic year. During his time off, he read an article about a company called Vonage, a "new-age VoIP telephone company," and was immediately interested. "I signed up with them and they sent me a little box that plugged into my computer. Instantly, I had a working telephone with a local number

in New York City," he said. "It seemed like magic."

After much research, Capouch became acquainted with Mark Spencer, the principal author of a popular VoIP-compatible software. In December 2004, Spencer recommended him for authorship of a manuscript conceptualized by the publishing house Addison Wesley. The manuscript would focus on Asterisk, a VoIP-compatible software product that offers the same services provided by an established telephone company, including voice mail, call waiting, caller ID, and multiple extensions. That same month, Capouch signed a contract and began writing text.

Because VoIP and Asterisk are both relatively new topics, the book will be marketed to the technical-reading public. Capouch foresees it being used as a reference guide and an academic text. "It will be more or less the 'official' book concerning Asterisk," he said. "I hope to describe VoIP generically and Asterisk specifically, in such a way that

readers are able to use Asterisk to avail themselves of the immense power that VoIP offers."

To complete the manuscript, Capouch has enlisted the help of a variety of sources. Digium, the company credited with writing the Asterisk program, currently serves as his consultant, and students, faculty and alumni from SJC's computer science department are assisting with project research and copy writing. Sophomore Blake VanEekeren, seniors Lawrence Ballenger and Tony Braner, Systems Analyst David DeLauro '00, Assistant Professor of Computer Science Bob Dusek '98, and Kenny Shumard '04 are just some of the players involved. By providing Capouch with some of the information and statistics he'll need in his writing, he has, in turn, given his assistants an incentive. "I wanted to give SJC students and staff the chance to be involved in a project that may wind up being significant in the history of modern telecommunications," he said.

Though he's currently dividing his time, Capouch is not separating his objectives. He's implemented his new research into the classroom, going so far as to begin a new course dedicated to VoIP and its implications, making SJC the only college in the United States to offer a formal course in VoIP. "Having just helped people at Purdue [University] and IU [Indiana University] set up their first VoIP systems, I can tell you that SJC is way ahead of the game with this technology," he said.

Capouch believes VoIP will eventually change telephony

as the world knows it and is excited to help unveil it to the masses. "Asterisk is a revolutionary piece of software, and once you begin to converge the desktop computer with VoIP, wonderful things can be done," he said. "VoIP is a very exciting new technology, and it is doubly exciting for us to be doing what we're doing with it here."

The manuscript can be preordered from Addison Wesley after June 1 by calling 617-848-6000.

THE 2005 SJC CAREERFEST

Monday, March 21st, 2005 --- SJC Core Building Foyer

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.: Career Fair
12:15 p.m.: SJC Vocal Jazz Ensemble performance, directed by Professor Todd Samra
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.: Student/Employer/Educator Luncheon

Over 50 companies/organizations will be recruiting college students for internships and full-time employment!
Registration is required.

For more information on the 9th Annual SJC CareerFest, contact Adam Malson by phone at 6116 or email amalson@saintjoe.edu.



SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

CAREER
DEVELOPMENT
CENTER

A Unit of The Division of Student Development

On behalf of
The Observer, have a
safe and happy
Spring Break.
See you the 14th!



Students in Capouch's VoIP class listen to a lecture on the differences between internet phone network and public switch network. Photo courtesy of Becky Scherer.

Teresa’s Box of Indie Goodies

Teresa Moreno



Photo courtesy of www.amazon.com

Neutral Milk Hotel’s “In the Aeroplane Over the Sea”

Last weekend, I walked into one of my favorite record stores looking for a new album to fall in love with. I walked slowly up and down the aisles. I passed the section that was devoted to the Smiths, and strolled over to take a look at Tom Waits’s collection of albums. I fingered my way through the alphabetized CDs, but found nothing alluring, so I called a friend of mine. Surely he would have a suggestion.

“Well, what are you looking for?” he asked. “Oh, I don’t know,” I informed him, “Something new and exciting.” Thinking for a moment he asked, “Well, you do have Neutral Milk Hotel’s *In the Aeroplane Over the Sea*, right?” “No, but I do have their other album.” I replied. “Bad move,” he said jokingly. “You need to listen to this one. You’ll love it.” And with those words, I walked up to the check-out counter with Neutral Milk Hotel’s *In the Aeroplane Over the Sea*.

I ripped off the cellophane wrapping and popped the CD into my computer. At first, *Aeroplane* seemed like many other indie rock albums of its time. Nothing really caught my ear. As the first song, “King of Carrot Flowers, Pt 1,” segued into part two, lead man Jeff Mangum sang out “I love you Jesus Christ” with conviction. It was at this point that I realized my original intuitions were wrong.

As *Aeroplane* continued, I noticed many different things that set this album apart from many others. First of all, the instrumentation is something to marvel. Their mix of acoustic guitar, drums, heavily fuzzed bass, bowed banjo, theremin, accordion,

zanzithophone, organ, uilleann pipes, and various other instruments could have easily made Neutral Milk Hotel the laughing stock of the indie scene. Instead, Mangum has found a way to craft each of these instruments to work intricately with each other. In songs such as “Holland 1945,” this incorporation is exemplified. This song, which is full of fuzzed bass, is mixed with the sounds of horns. Neutral Milk Hotel continues this with “Oh Comely.” Starting off with the slow strumming of an acoustic guitar, the song gradually floats its climax by adding more instruments as the song progresses till it finally reaches a multifaceted ending.

Along with the unusual musical arrangement, Mangum’s lyrics are quite peculiar. With lyrics that talk about things like dead dogs dissolving and draining away, semen staining mountaintops, bottled fetuses tapping on jars, and other bizarre things, the listener can easily feel like they are trapped inside one of Mangum’s bad dreams.

An explanation of his unique prose is that Mangum wrote this entire album as an epic concept album about the life, death, and diary of Anne Frank. I’m not quite sure if I see this revealed through the lyrics, but while listening, it is easy to tell that there is a common tie between all of the songs.

One thing of which I am certain is that this psychedelic folk-rock album easily takes the listener by surprise. Whether it is the unusual musical styling or lyrics that grab your attention, it can easily take you over and leave your ears wanting more.

Movie Review: *Top Gun* Still on Top

By Katherine Grgic, Staff Writer

Because I am a poor college student and most of my audience members are poor college students, and viewing current movies is a relative impossibility as such, I decided to dedicate this article to an “oldie but goodie,” if you will: “Top Gun.” A classic movie from 1986, “Top Gun” proves that there was more to come out of the ‘80s than bad fashion and hair bands.

To begin, I suppose I should address the overarching question, “Why ‘Top Gun,’ when there are so many awesome older movies?” First, you cannot claim yourself to be a child of the ‘80s unless you have seen the movie, start to finish; knowing famous quotes from it is not enough. It doesn’t matter if you were two when the movie came out, or not yet born in the cases of some of the members of this year’s freshmen class. You can still appreciate scenes like Kelly McGillis being serenaded by a hundred Navy men in dress whites, even if they have ‘80s hair. Second, you are able to hear what constitutes “classic ‘80s music” before people like Jessica Simpson decided to make pop-tart covers of them (read: “Take My Breath Away” was a *good* song before she remade it). Next, between the



Photo courtesy of www.deutsches-filminstitut.de/hdf/cont_h_63.htm

actors and the flight sequences, there is enough eye candy to satisfy everyone: Tom Cruise before he got old, long hair, and braces; Val Kilmer before he got fat and started his own religion; and Meg Ryan, the younger years, a time when someone knew who Kelly McGillis was and cared, etc. Couple that with insanely intense aerial scenes... How could you go wrong with that winning combination? It also provides answers to the burning questions that may have kept you awake at night for years, like, “How did Anthony Edwards last so long on ER when he was *bald*? Answer: He had hair, and was therefore much cooler, in “Top Gun.” See? “Top Gun” cures all that ails you.

I suppose I should shift focus from the benefits of

viewing the movie to the movie itself for those of you who have chosen to ignore the “Top Gun” marathons on TBS and other such movie channels that show the same film everyday for a month. The film follows hotshot pilot Pete Mitchell (Cruise) as he competes for the prestigious ‘Top Gun’ award at the elite Miramar Naval Air Station. However, the loss of a friend devastates Mitchell, and he loses the award to rival Tom Kasansky (Kilmer). To prove to himself, his superiors, and his peers that he still has what it takes to be a fighter pilot, he accepts orders to fly a mission during an international crisis. Between the time he spends in the cockpit, he works to develop a relationship with his attractive instructor, Charlotte Blackwood (McGillis), adding a romantic element to the film.

Although cheesy and over-the-top at times, the film actually blends action-flick and chick-flick rather well, serving as an excellent movie choice when you have to appeal to both the guys and the girls during movie night. Whether you hate the ‘80s or find yourself parked in front of the television every time VHI runs “I love the ‘80s,” you’ll find the movie and the soundtrack an enjoyable blast from the past.

IM Dodgeball: Life Imitates Bad Art

By Katherine Stemble, Staff Writer

One hundred and sixteen people, divided into twelve teams, are currently signed up to play in SJC’s Intramural Dodgeball season and tournament. Teams of at least six players hurl six, ten-inch rubber balls from behind attack lines on a court identical to that of volleyball.

The team with more players on the court after ten minutes, or the team that has eliminated all players from the other, is declared the winner. If the number of players left on the court is equal, then a two-minute sudden death period is employed. There is one thirty-second timeout per game, used for player substitutions. Referees, otherwise known as IM Commissioners, are present to ensure teams play in accordance with the rules.

“Its fun to see your student body competing at a non-collegiate level. There’s no pressure,” says IM Commissioner Jenna Ketch.

Fellow IM Commissioner Elizabeth Genova agrees, saying, “It’s a good way to bond with the student body.”

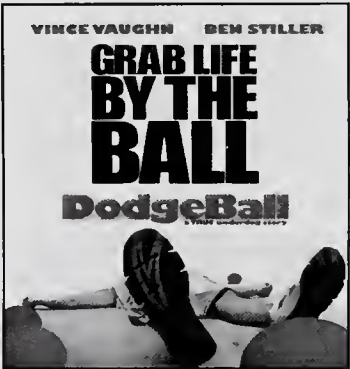


Photo courtesy of www.jimd73.greatnow.com/summer2004.html

Both Ketch and Genova also play on dodgeball teams, as do several of the other five IM Commissioners. Soccer Coach Dowiak and Dean Keller oversee the program.

The season began Wednesday, February 23, 2005, and will last for three weeks, followed by a tournament in which the winning team receives an IM tee shirt. Students are allowed to join teams up through tournament time.

Jonathan Broeker, a member of the seven-person team “Metallica,” says, “Dodgeball feeds one’s competitiveness because it’s so simple and it’s fun because

it’s not a game you have to think about. It is more about reaction.”

Each team plays all other groups before the tournament. The tournament is a “single elimination based on teams with the worst records playing teams with the best records in order to weed the teams out,” says Ketch.

For the first time, the dodgeball teams are playing by the National Dodgeball Association Rules, or “movie rules.” The film *Dodgeball*, “a true underdog story” with Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn, generated interest in the sport and the group names reflect details of the movie, such as the team “Purple Cobras.”

Games take place in the rec center on two courts at seven, eight, and nine o’clock p.m. every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from Monday, February 28, 2005, to Thursday, March 17, 2005, followed by the tournament, which will be announced at a later date.

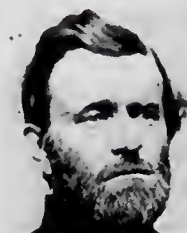
Midterm: Halfway to Nowhere

By Joe Larson, Features Editor

The coming of Midterm exams and Spring Break means that the semester is halfway over. If you are like most college students, you have dug yourself quite a hole, which is convenient because it can serve as a grave for your dying GPA along with any hopes and dreams you had for the future.

Of course, there is an alternative to giving up. After Spring Break, you could do the assigned reading, proofread your papers, and study for exams. But that would be lame. Hard work is for foreigners and underpaid subordinates. Or you could just follow these tips.

First, grow a mustache. Studies show that facial hair is the only criteria that professors use to recognize students. New facial hair means a new identity. Rather than being a slacker who sits in the back of class, you can be a slacker with a mustache. The benefits are endless. Plus, Ulysses S. Grant had a mustache, which



Grant models his mustache.

Photo courtesy of <http://www.civil-war.ws/>

enabled him to confuse and then defeat his communist enemies. In short, grow a mustache—especially if you're a girl.

Second, stop showering. People will think you're too busy being smart to follow basic rules of hygiene. No one will come close enough to you to prove otherwise.

Third, participate too much. The disadvantage of a small school is that students are required to be involved in class. To thwart the system, do the assigned reading exactly once. Then start off class with a comment about the reading, but gradually go into a tangent about campaign finance reform or a dog you had that died when you were three.

Talk for the entire class period. Make up words as necessary. Occasionally break into song. If anyone questions your sincerity, point to your mustache and your critics will be silenced. You will never be asked to participate again.

Fourth, commit tax fraud. This might not help your grades much, but white collar crime looks very good on a résumé. It shows initiative. Nobody likes a follower.

Finally, eat more. Ingesting mass amounts of calories is an excellent substitute for friendship and self-esteem. Professors will give you better grades simply because you're guaranteed to die of high cholesterol before the end of the year. Pity is a powerful ally.

Following these tips might not help you pass your classes, but at least you'll get a cool mustache and a serious weight problem from the deal. And in my opinion, facial hair and fatness are the true measures of happiness in life.

Lucky at Casino Night

By Danny Waclaw, Staff Writer

Maybe it's just me, but there's something empowering about carrying a plastic cup of chips worth upward of \$7,000. I like having the ability to make a fortune or break the bank.

I am certainly not the only person who has this sentiment, though. Perhaps that is the reason for the incredible turnout at this year's Casino Night, which was sponsored by campus Residential Life.

The first floor of Halleck Center was transformed into an on-campus casino last week, complete with slot machines and felt-covered game tables for roulette, blackjack, and craps. There was also a bevy of prizes in plain view for all the night's participants while they attempted to gamble the night away.

Perhaps the most popular of the games was blackjack, having the greatest number of tables and certainly the largest

number of gamblers. Roulette was also fairly popular, but perhaps not as exciting as the slot machines, whose sirens would go off every so often when someone would have just the right amount of luck to hit the jackpot.

At the end of the night, Michele Gunkelman and her staff counted everyone's winnings, giving each person a number of tickets based on their winnings for a chance to get one of the prizes sitting in the lounge. Though some people were rather unhappy at the prospect of winning a chance to win a prize, it does make sense since the event was available at no cost to the students who participated.

All in all, the evening was a great success, which may come as a surprise to many due to the apathy that seems to abound on campus. Kudos to Gunkelman and the Residential Life staff for a job well done.

Stuff



by Brian Bugajski

Many times we think that because we are such a small school, we are unknown to the outside world; however, this is not true. In my random searching of the internet, I came across a site devoted to haunted places, and to my surprise a number of campus buildings were listed as haunted. What follows is the excerpt from the website and is by no means the opinion of *The Observer* or Saint Joseph's College. "Rensselaer – St. Joseph's College – Aquinas Hall – supposedly the site of an exorcism. When any of the priests are asked about it, they quickly become furious and tell you to mind your own business. However, the place has been closed down for apparently no reason. This dorm had offices on the first floor and had students living there a few years ago. After that it was used mainly for the nursing student offices. In 2002 there are

still offices and there are now athletic coaches living in the residence area" (www.theshadowlands.net/places/indiana.htm). As I said before, I was surprised that we were nationally known for hauntings; however, the historian within me took over and I started to question the validity of the accusations the website made about Aquinas Hall. Hence, this edition of Stuff will cover the interesting history of the building we now know as Aquinas Hall.

The building did not receive the name of Aquinas Hall until 1959; however, it has been around since 1909. The building's original purpose was to house the Precious Blood Sisters, the women who kept the college operational by offering their services until the late fifties. Fr. Dominic Gerlach, C.P.P.S., writes, "The new convent was no luxury building. The sisters lived on the upper two floors. Obviously, most of the sisters (there were a total of 24 at one time) had to live in dormitory style on the third floor, the beds separated by curtains. Only a few had the privilege of enjoying private rooms on the second floor." In addition to residencies for the sisters, the building housed a kitchen in the basement.

The sisters who occupied the building were responsible for mending clothes, daily laundry, cooking, and cleaning. Gerlach goes on to



SJC's Aquinas Hall. Photo courtesy of www.saintjoe.edu/map/

write, "This writer recalls hearing the sisters, often the older ones, praying the Rosary in unison while performing such monotonous chores as snapping beans, peeling potatoes, etc., instead of indulging in the more pleasant diversion of gossip." Clearly SJC could not have survived without the help of the Precious Blood Sisters. Whenever the sisters are mentioned in the College historical writings, the authors are sure to graciously thank them in print.

The number of sisters on campus dwindled over the years, and by 1958 only three remained on campus. The following school year (1959-1960) the three sisters who were on the faculty moved off campus and the convent building received its current name of Aquinas Hall in honor

of St. Thomas Aquinas the patron of studies. Because enrollment that year exceeded 1,000 students, Aquinas Hall was renovated and opened as a dormitory. The basement was converted into storage space, and the first floor was transformed into the education department. The first floor was changed again once the nursing program became established and took over the first floor offices.

The building served as a dormitory for students until the turn of the century when it was closed for a time following the 1999-2000 school year. There is no evidence of an exorcism within the records of the College; however, SJC alum, former Aquinas Hall resident, and current Admissions Office Representative, Sara (Reasoner) Solis '00, recalls

that she had an eerie feeling when she stood near a certain window in the building. She also recalls a time when her then boyfriend, also a resident of Aquinas, would hear footsteps in the hallway which would stop in front of his door. When he asked who was there and opened the door, no one was there; however once he closed the door and went back to what he was doing he clearly heard the footsteps walk away from his door. I know that there is no true evidence of these happenings; however Solis is very adamant about the existence of an eerie presence within the building.

The website sparked my curiosity, and though I found no evidence to prove its findings, I found no evidence to falsify the statements, either. There was one fact within the website's description that is concrete truth: there are several athletic coaches living in the building, and the first floor is used for the nursing department. However, the purpose of this column was not to prove or disprove any accusations about Aquinas Hall. I only wanted to inform the general population about the rich and eerie history surrounding this 95-year-old landmark.

Puma Indoor Track Team Gives Their All

A Special Report from Andrew Costello

If anyone can remember walking past to the Richard F. Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse back in September, they would have noticed a group of about twenty or thirty people spread out in a huge circle next to the tennis courts.

This assortment probably spurred one to think, "Is this some religious ceremony? Some *Measure* group?" Well, no. It was the farthest thing from it. That circular group of people was not just a bunch of individuals trying to invoke spirits or read literature.

That circular group was the Puma Track and Field Team, and what they were doing was stretching and getting ready to exhaust themselves in one of head coach Bill Massoels' despotic workouts.

Over the past few years, Puma Track and Field has garnered much acclaim due to the prestigious nature of Saint Joseph's College and the ambition of its athletes.

Even though the sport's fan-base is not colossal-usually comprised of parents, current or former track and field athletes and those who are just waiting to see a potential world record in the 100-meter dash-that still does not take away from the beauty that is Puma Track and Field.

Regardless of who watches and who doesn't, the 53 men and women on the team uphold those virtues needed to win.

The Pumas have just completed the memorable 2005 Indoor Track season.

When we last visited the Track and Field Scene, the Pumas were feeling much disappointment with the women finishing fifth and the men sixth at the Great Lakes Valley Conference Outdoor Conference Championship.

Thus, this season was, from the start, one geared toward improvement, and, more importantly, victory.

"We have a lot of people who are dedicated on this team," said Junior Captain Caleb Branam.

The Puma men experienced a good indoor season. The men fared well at large stages such as the Cardinal Invite at the University of Chicago and the Chicagoland Championships at Lewis University, finishing second and fourth, respectively.

Trips to Illinois State and Grand Valley State Universities in the season's initial weeks were indicative of what the Pumas wanted to accomplish.

The Puma women also had their share of accomplishments throughout the 2005 Indoor season. Promising performances at the Cardinal Invite (second) and a phenomenal finish at the Division II Challenge in Findlay, Ohio (sixth) proved that the Women also had their eyes on the prize.

So what exactly was that prize? The prize is the 2005 GLVC Indoor Conference Championship. Although elusive in the Pumas' eyes since 1999, this year's squad provided a

wealth of talent capable of capturing the title.

Despite giving forth exceptional effort, the Pumas finished fourth at the GLVC Conference meet on February 26.

Even though the Pumas did not walk away with the GLVC trophy, they walked away with something else: fatigue. They were tired because they left everything they had on the track.

The Pumas had several exceptional performances. Junior Amanda Stoops set a new school record in the 200 meter hurdles (28.53), gaining All-Conference status in that event, in addition to finishing second in the 400 meter dash.

Junior Jackie Inkrott also joined the All-Conference team, finishing second behind Stoops in the 200 meter hurdles.

The duo was not finished yet, as the women's 1600 meter relay team comprised of Stoops, Inkrott, junior Amy Baird, and sophomore Alysia Fortney set a new school record as well (4:03.23).

Junior Kurt Laurinaitis and sophomore Eric Kramer also gained All-Conference status in the triple

jump and the 55-meter hurdles, respectively.

Freshman Walter Moton had a stellar performance in the 100-meter dash, finishing first and coming within hundredths of a second from qualifying for the National Championships in Boston.

Overall, the Pumas are satisfied with their performances but ready to prove the critics wrong in May at the 2005 GLVC Outdoor Championships.

"We had a pretty good meet [Saturday]," said Massoels. "I personally don't believe in the saying of 'giving 120%.' That's physically impossible. But giving 100% is, and that's what my athletes gave today. I was very pleased."

If one actually stopped and looked at anyone standing in that circular group assorted outside of the Fieldhouse, they would have noticed one thing: fire and passion.



Coach Lou Wants YOU at These Upcoming Home Games

March 19

Softball vs. Grand Valley State 12:00 p.m. (DH)

March 22

Softball vs. Lewis 3:00 p.m. (DH)

March 23

Baseball vs. Saginaw Valley State 1:00 p.m. (DH)

Men's Basketball vs. SIU Edwardsville 3:00 p.m.

March 26

Track and Field hosts Mike Vallone Invite. 10:00 a.m.

An Aubry of All Traits

By Andrew Costello, Staff Reporter

When Aubry Roe wakes up every morning, the first thoughts that cross her mind are of a numerical value. The reason for this is not because she is a math or computer science major, but because of her finance class that starts at 9 am.

Aubry thinks about her performance the previous Thursday or Saturday as a shooting guard for the Puma Women's Basketball team.

She also thinks about her anticipation about



accomplishes things both in the classroom with her 16-credit schedule this semester and on the basketball court and golf course.

While most student-athletes expend enough energy participating in one sport, Roe goes overtime representing the Pumas with dedication, dignity, and poise.

"At the beginning of the year doing two sports and dealing with school seems very hectic," commented Roe on her busy schedule. "At one point in time during the Fall, I would have classes

from eight a.m. until two p.m., then head straight to golf until four, and then back to the (Richard F. Scharf) Fieldhouse for basketball practice until seven."

Although most people would probably go insane with even the semblance of such an agenda, Roe is posed and reserved about her activities. "When winter comes around it's not too bad because I just have to worry about basketball, but once spring break is done, then it's back to golf again," Roe commented lightly.

However, her love of both games has kept her interested in both sports ever since she was in grade school. "I started playing golf when I was in 7th grade and basketball when I was in 5th. I have never stopped appreciating sports," she said.

Amazingly, Roe is not really conceited about her status as a playmaker; in fact, she is humble and has a positive influence on all of her teammates. "She is a very relaxed and humble person. She comes to practice every day with goals in mind, but at the same time

is very cool and calm, and that helps the team to do the same," said sophomore golf teammate Kate Korn.

On the court, Roe does not shy away from the competition any less. "Aubry is a very determined individual. It is great to see how she is determined to be a team player, even when she knows she is sore and tired from golf," said freshman basketball teammate Julia Lablanc.

To say the least, Aubry Roe is one of a kind. Even though that phrase is utterly cliché, it is a valid statement with regards to her. Aristotle once said that balance was the key to a fruitful life. Fortunately for Roe, she seems to have lived up to her potential.



"I would have classes from eight a.m. to two p.m., then head straight to golf until four, and then go back to the Fieldhouse for basketball practice until seven."
~Aubry Roe

the upcoming golf season and her personal best of 80 that she wants to improve.

She thinks about a night out with the ladies at the Valentines Dance.

Either way, Roe has a lot to think about. Who could blame her? She is multi-talented.

Roe is currently a freshman at SJC and one of the few student-athletes who balances a rigorous sports schedule and participation in two-sports, with a demanding curriculum and a very lively social life.

A native of Rochester, Indiana, Roe is a business administration major who

Golf

Aubry Roe led the Lady Puma Golf Team with an 18 hole stroke average of 86.3.

Basketball

In just ten minutes a game, Roe sank 20 three pointers and is shooting 39% from downtown.

GLVC Men's Basketball Tournament Pairings Released

By Adam Mandon, Sports Editor

The Saint Joseph's College Men's Basketball Team will take on a familiar foe in Quincy University (18-6) in the quarterfinals of the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament. The Pumas (16-11) have not had much success this season against the Hawks.

Quincy swept the season series from the Pumas winning both a January 8th bout by the score of

71-67 at Quincy, and a 91-82 score at home.

Quincy's Ryan Walker torched the Pumas this season, scoring 15 points in the first meeting and 32 points in the second game.

The next Quincy game is scheduled as an 8:30 p.m. tipoff on Thursday at Roberts Stadium in Evansville, Indiana.

Should the Pumas defeat the Hawks, SJC will take on the winner

of the #1 seeded Southern Indiana (23-4) and the #8 seeded University of Missouri Saint Louis (9-18) at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. The championship game will be Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

Comments? E-mail us at
amh4118@saintjoe.edu.

Spring Training '05

By Adam Mandon, Sports Editor

As the cool late winter air continues to rip through the Midwest, hope is rising in the West. Major League Baseball Spring Training began last week, setting off many possibilities. Who will lock horns with the Cubs in a battle for the National League Central crown? You might be surprised.

The Chicago Cubs are nearly a lock in the National League Central. Their first four pitchers in the starting rotation are the best in the game. Kerry Wood, Mark Prior, Carlos Zambrano, and Greg Maddux are a sure bet to line up opponents in the batters' box and mow them down. Their offense is also among the best. Todd Walker, Aramis Ramirez, Derek Lee, Nomar Garciaparra, and Jeromy Burnitz should provide enough pop in the lineup to forget about Sammy Sosa and Moises Alou.

But before I hand the hardware to the Cubs' brass, I'll need to tell you the most improved team is in the same division. That's right, the Cincinnati Reds are this year's San Diego Padres. This is a team that made huge strides this off-season. First of all, they improved from within the organization by getting healthy. Outfielder/Infielder Austin Kerns should be fully recovered from an injury-riddled 2004 campaign, and Outfielder Ken Griffey, Junior is eager as always to return to the status of the elite. Speaking of a return to the elite, the signing of shortstop Rich Aurelia went nearly unnoticed. This is a guy who is returning to the National League for a full season for the first time in a few years. He's comfortable and could provide a huge lift at short to help some fans forget the retirement of Barry Larkin. Adding these three to the already potent offensive lineup of Sean Casey, Adam Dunn, Willy Mo Pena, and speedster Ryan Freel, and you start to realize this is a team that can score. But can they hold their leads or will this be a team that has to score seven runs to win? The pitching staff also looks to be a strength as well. Adding starters Eric Milton and Ramon Martinez gives the Reds a pretty good top-of-the-rotation with Paul Wilson as their ace. Relievers David Weathers and Ben Weber have each been among the tops in their respective leagues in holding a lead for their starting pitcher.

The Cubs should win the 2005 NL Central and they may make it to the World Series. But do not overlook the field in the Central. Each team is hungry to overtake the favored Cubs. Hang on baseball fans; this NL Central race is going to be a wild ride.

Madame Sandra's Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Be prepared for a casual comment you make to a friend to turn into a serious conversation very quickly. Your friend may become defensive, or simply have a strong opinion about what you say, and he or she will not let it go without a fight. Be prepared to defend your opinion.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

It is in your nature to do the right thing, and you may soon find that doing so will cause you much more difficulty and pain than taking the easy way out. However, in the end you will be rewarded for making the right choice, even though it may not seem worth it now.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

If there is something that has been weighing on your mind lately, you need to stop worrying and let things fall as they may. There is no sense in worrying about something over which you have no control, and you will find much more peace of mind by simply forgetting about it.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

If you've been feeling bored lately with the monotony of your life, now is the time to get out there and start participating in more activities. You'll be surprised how much fun is actually out there if you look, so take the initiative and start looking now before it's too late.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your sense of what you want is very strong right now, so there is no chance at all that someone will talk you into or out of something to which you have already set your mind. This is a good trait to possess, so try not to let it be a passing sense.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

If someone asks you for your advice on a serious matter in the near future, don't be afraid to take some time to think it through before giving your opinion. Even though this friend may seem desperate, he or she will appreciate carefully thought out advice much more.

Libra (September 23-October 23)

It seems that lately all you can think about in your free time is what you will have to do tomorrow. It is fine to plan ahead, but don't forget to utilize your down time to de-stress and relax. You will be much less productive tomorrow if you are stressed and on-edge.

Scorpio (October 24-November 21)

You have a certain charisma about you right now, so now is a good time to call a friend to whom you may owe an apology. Your poise and confidence will be a very strong asset right now, and this friend will respond very positively to your apology.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

If someone has made you an offer recently, you should sit down and seriously consider it right now, even if before it seemed useless. Ask for the advice of a trusted friend or mentor, and decide if this offer is something you should take advantage of.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Even though you are usually very direct with people, you may want to change this attitude in a confrontation you may have soon. This attitude may be misinterpreted as pretentiousness, and it could cost you the argument if you aren't careful.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

If there's something you've been wanting lately but haven't convinced yourself to buy, now is a good time to treat yourself to something on which you don't usually waste money. Do something nice for yourself, and you'll be surprised at how much your mood will improve.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Be careful about speaking too freely about personal matters in the next few weeks. Your openness and frank manner may seem normal to you, but it may be offensive to someone else. Try to put yourself in someone else's shoes before deciding to open your mouth.

Joke of the Week:
The Unusual Pet

This guy was lonely and so he decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he finally bought a centipede, which came in a little white box to use for his house. He took the box back home, found a good location for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to the bar to have a drink. So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to Frank's with me and have a beer?" But there was no answer from his new pet. This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked him again, "How about going to the bar and having a drink with me?" But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation. He decided to ask him one more time; this time putting his face up against the centipede's house and shouting, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to Frank's place and have a drink with me? A little voice came out of the box: "I heard you the first time! I'm putting on my shoes! Courtesy of www.collegehumor.com

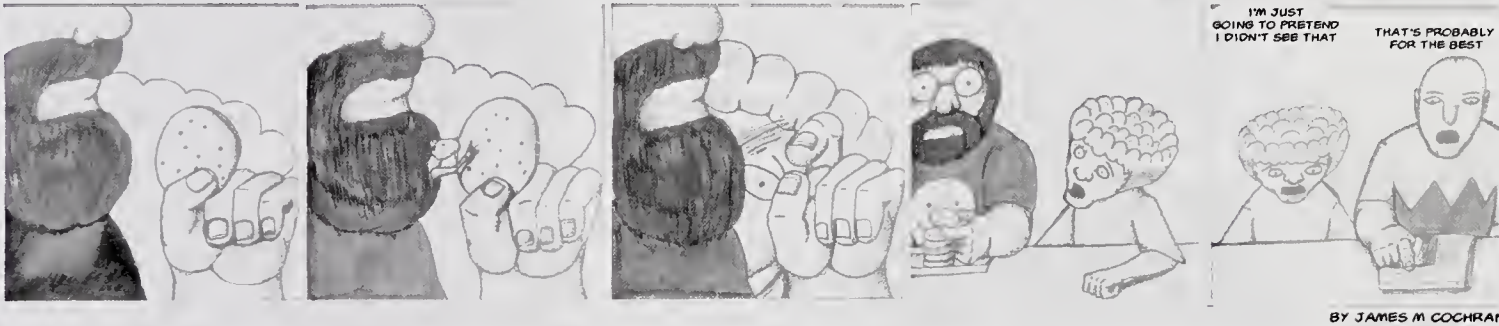
Spring Break Trivia

Think Spring Break is a new tradition created by the modern college-aged population? Think again! The following is a brief selection from www.Springbreak.com which proves that Spring Break is actually a well-established ritual dating back several centuries.

Some people trace the roots of modern-day Spring Break back to the ancient rituals of the Greeks and Romans preceding the birth of Christ. Back then, men and women, particularly those who were of "mate-able" age, welcomed the return of spring, the season of fertility, in rituals celebrating Dionysus (Greek)/ Bacchus (Roman), the god of wine. Such rituals featured drinking and dancing until participants were in an altered consciousness, open to the irrational calls of this god of earthly pleasures. The advent of Christianity put a stop to such pagan rituals, since the new, singular God was seen as an advocate of spiritual rather than worldly discoveries. Nonetheless, many believe that the essence of Dionysus/Bacchus lives on, and that Spring Break is one of the current incarnations of that drive in human beings.

ATTENTION STUDENTS:
Do you have an original short story, poem, reflection, comic, or other work that you would like to see printed on the Et Cetera page of *The Observer*? Please contact Sandra at sw4014@saintjoe.edu to submit your work.

WAFFLEHEAD: "PET OF HOSS"



SJC Poet's Corner

The Undying Soldier

Laying in the mud half-dead
Mortar rounds are going off by my head
I'm stuck in this belligerent hell
I was in a state of complacency
right before the bombs fell
Now I have this malignant curse this malediction
I can only hope this is all fiction
I can hope it's just a dream
But this is the last the world will see of me
The only thoughts running through my mind are of my beautiful wife and kids
I can only think about all the things I wanted to do with them but never did
What will they tell my wife
What will she do when she finds out they've taken my life
Now I'm slipping into the dark my life evanescent
The numbness of my body is crescent
I have tried to raise myself up to get help

But every time I tried I just fell
I prayed to God that he could use me
I would be his soldier to fight the malevolent spirits if need be
Now that the rain is falling it has exacerbated death upon me
I have to move as much as I can to keep from drowning
I can see the sun setting off in the distance
The raindrops as they fall glisten
The rain and sun have created a rainbow I can see
I never thought my judgment day would be full of such beauty
I am very happy the rain clouds did not take my last sunset away
The sun reminds me of my life now that it fades
The only difference is the sun will rise tomorrow
It will shine down on the field of sorrow
The moans of the dead are eminent around me
Nigritude is only a few moments away and I know I cannot flee
I give one last silent good-bye to my family and this earth

And the final words I can utter are a prayer to God to give me a good rebirth
I now watch over my family and give them solace through this time without me
And I am God's soldier and I fight for Him proudly

-Jeff McDole

Me

You don't know me so how Can you judge me?
You never seen life through my Eyes or walk in my shoes
You do not even know what it is that brought you to me.
So why you try to say things that aren't true
Why you want to judge me When you cant, see the true me
You look at my looks and assume I am just like even one else

Well I am not so do not think you
Know me because you do not
You cannot judge me until you take a day in my life and see the true me
See what I go through to make my life good for me to leave the hardships
I have had to over come in my family
You cannot say you know me until you really know me

- Donna Stokes

Want to see your poem in print??? Email sw4014@saintjoe.edu